

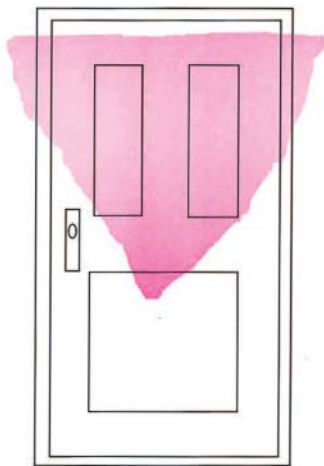
LIFE IN OUT

A MAGAZINE BY WOMYN FOR WOMYN

ISSUE NO# 001

MAY, 1994

COME ON OUT !!



Letter from the editor


Dear readers, Welcome to *Life in Out*. I truly hope you enjoy our magazine. Our goal is to inform you of all the goings on in our local community, as well as entertain, stimulate, aggravate, and just plain ol' stir up some #*@!.

I invite you to respond to any article or opinion that is printed in *Life in Out*. I promise all letters will be read, but I cannot promise to print or respond to each of them.

If there is something you think the community should know about, or something you want to know more about, there will be a column called FYI just for you. The only dumb question is the unasked question. So please don't be shy.

I would also like to say that not all views expressed in *Life in Out* are those of the editor, and I won't prevent something from being printed just because I don't agree with it.

Now I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for picking this magazine up and taking the time to read it. May it do all that I wish it to do, for you. And if not I trust you will let me know.

Sincerely,

Stacy L. Meadows
Editor



Stacy L. Meadows
Publisher of this wonderful
magazine
She also plays the part of
writer and editor



McKenna E. Minor
Photographer
and potential new writer
(hint, hint)

We here at *Life in Out* would like to encourage you to send in your comments, whether it is a bit of advice or a compliment. You can also request something (not guaranteed to fulfill it, but will give it the ol' college try)

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CONVICTION

Years ago when womyn started their fight for their individuality, words like frail, dame, weaker sex, and broad were used to describe us. Now words like feminist, suffragist, womynkind, and womynhood are being used to describe our fight and the movement to win political, economic, and social equality for all womyn.

I don't want to lead you to believe that our fight for equality as womyn is over, but we should appreciate and utilize the rights that our foremothers empowered us with by standing up as "lesbians" and confronting the accompanying goal of acceptance as womyn in the workforce who happen to be lesbians.

A Kinsey study concluded that there is no cause for homosexuality, neither heredity nor environment (including parents' actions). Looking for a cause usually implies the homophobic assumption that there is something wrong with being lesbian or gay. Who looks for causes of heterosexual orientation?

By letting go of the guilt, self-hatred, and fear learned from living in a homophobic society, we as womyn and as lesbians can come "out" to ourselves. Once this occurs our lives become much fuller, and we are more confident in ourselves and our abilities to succeed in life. Once we love and accept ourselves as we are, we will be loved and accepted by others.

SLM

UP ALL NIGHT, A Short Story by Frankie

She wore a white spaghetti-strap dress, sitting at the bar studying a music sheet, intently following along with her lips. "Frankie's my name," I said, as I reached up and tucked in her tag. She looked up at me a little startled then touched my hand and smiled lightly, thanking me. "Im Jessy," she said blushing. Then she lowered her head back to her lyrics. I couldn't walk away from her, so I stood there staring at her until she looked up at me and offered me the seat next to her. I sat down and offered to buy her a drink. "No thank you, I don't drink when I'm singing, but if you're still here after the show I'll let you buy me a cup of coffee." "Oh I think I can manage that; when do you start?" She looked up at the clock behind the bar and said, "Right now; please excuse me," and rushed off. She sang a little like Joan Jet and Bob Marley, raspy and sensual. I could listen to her all night; as a matter of fact I did.

The next time I looked at my watch it was 3:00a.m. and the bartender

was asking everyone to leave. She nodded to him that I was O.K. and he left me alone. It was 4:00a.m. before we got out of there. We walked around till we found an all-night coffee joint and found a table all the way in the back next to the jukebox. She let me pick the music, so I picked a few oldies and some jazz. "You know I don't do this sort of thing with just anyone," she said. "You probably say that to everyone," I said with a big grin. "No I mean it, there was something about the way you hung over me back at the bar." "I know what you mean. There was something that would not let me walk away. I don't know what I would have done if you hadn't asked me to sit down. I would have felt like a fool standing over you all night." She blushed and looked down into her coffee cup. She was beautiful: milk chocolate eyes, dark hair with gray showing through, just starting to show her age with smile lines around her eyes. I just couldn't keep my eyes off her.

We spoke about how she has been singing in the night clubs for years and she wouldn't change one of them for anything else. I told her all about me, from age three to the present, and she seemed to be interested in every year. We discussed how each of us came out, and about our past lovers. She only had two; I on the other hand have had a few more. But we both have been single for over a year. When the waitress came over and asked us if we were staying for lunch we looked at each other and started to laugh. We had been talking for six hours and we still had more to say. I asked her if I could drive her home, and when we got to her house she said she would ask me in, but she really needed to get some sleep. I agreed with her, then asked her if I could kiss her goodbye. She said yes so I kissed her briefly on the lips and again on her cheek, giving her a little hug. I noticed her tag was out again so I tucked it back in. She gave me this great big smile, handed me her phone number, and said "call me."

Frankie...



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Uncle Peeping Sam is Still With Us!

When candidate Bill Clinton spoke to gay and lesbian audiences during his campaign, he made sweeping promises about how he would issue an executive order completely removing the ban on homosexuals in the armed forces. Hopes were high. After the election, a group of litigators, veterans, and community activists, some having fought (hard on this issue) for years, joined together to form a telephone round table which subsequently submitted a draft executive order, a document closely paralleling the order by which Harry Truman ended official racial segregation in the military to the Clinton/Gore transition team.

While we continually heard (and hoped) that President Clinton would at least stop the Pentagon from playing "peeping tom" into the private lives of service members, he proved us wrong. And now, after a year of watching the administration surrender any hope of real change to Sam Nunn's "Don't ask, don't tell," we are sure that government-sanctioned discrimination continues to thrive in the U.S. military.

The new policy on homosexuals in the military, as published by the Pentagon and reiterated by Secretary Perry in his confirmation hearings, continues to force thousands of patriotic men and women to play hide-and-seek with their lives. Contrary to the Pentagon's spin, the new regulations:

- *allow the military to ask, at any time after enlistment, if a member is homosexual or has participated in homosexual acts;
- *allow the military to use non-verbal statements like rainbow flags or pink triangle buttons as credible evidence to start investigations;
- *do not protect the privilege of communication with clergy, doctors, and psychiatrists. Rather, such communication, which would be protected in the civilian world, can and will be used in a trial by courts martial or an administration discharge hearing;
- *allow commanders to seize and use personal diaries, letters, and computer files as evidence of homosexual conduct;
- *do not forbid witch hunts; and
- *define the statement "I am gay" or a friendly hug between persons of the same gender to be homosexual conduct.

This is the reality of the new policy; its breadth, its scope, and its vagueness have the potential to ensnare many more people, both gay and straight, than the old policy did.

Both the Military Law Task Force in San Diego, and the Service Member's Legal Defence Network in Washington continue to receive calls daily from service members under the threat of the new policy. Military personnel need to know that the new regulations are in fact worse than the old regulations because commands treat conduct much more harshly than status, and the Pentagon has broadened the definition of homosexual acts to include anything that a reasonable person believes to be homosexual. In fact, the military's effective rate of discharge for last year (actual discharges + those temporarily blocked by the Meinhold order) actually increased from 708 in fiscal year 1992 to 773 in fiscal year 1993.

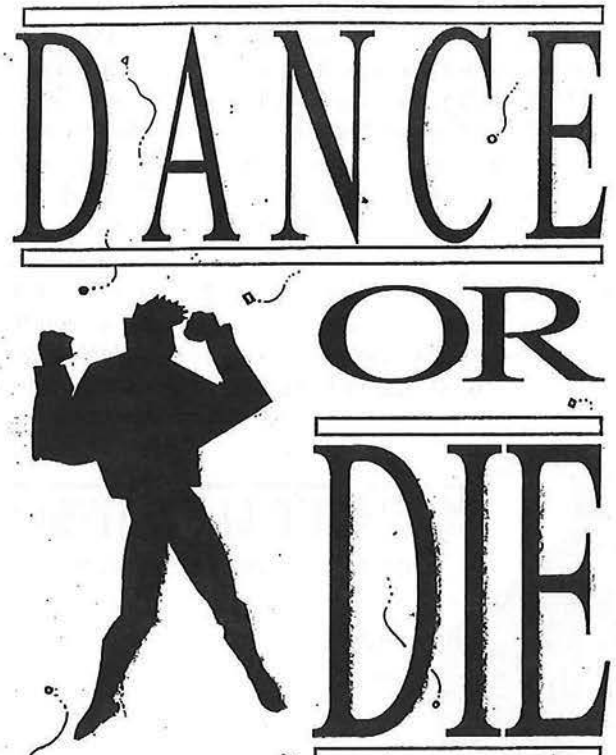
NGLTF PRESS RELEASE

**JUST ANOTHER RULE THAT
NEEDS TO BE BROKEN**

BECAUSE

GAY MEN AND LESBIANS ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT AND BECAUSE HOW WE ACT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN WHO WE ARE AND IF WE GET HARASSED IT'S OUR PROBLEM AND IF WE GET ATTACKED WE PROVOKED IT AND IF WE RAISE OUR VOICES WE'RE FLAUNTING OURSELVES AND IF WE ENJOY SEX WE'RE PERVERTS AND IF WE HAVE AIDS WE DESERVE IT AND IF WE MARCH WITH PRIDE WE'RE RECRUITING CHILDREN AND IF WE WANT OR HAVE CHILDREN WE'RE UNFIT PARENTS AND IF WE STAND UP FOR OUR RIGHTS WE'RE OVERSTEPPING OUR BOUNDARIES AND BECAUSE WE ARE FORCED CONSTANTLY TO QUESTION OUR OWN WORTH AS HUMAN BEINGS AND IF WE DON'T HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE OF THE OPPOSITE SEX WE HAVEN'T GIVEN IT A CHANCE AND IF WE HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE OF THE SAME SEX IT IS NOT RECOGNIZED AND WE ARE TOLD OUR LOVE IS NOT "REAL" AND IF WE COME OUT OF THE CLOSET WE'RE JUST GOING THROUGH A PHASE AND BECAUSE LESBIAN AND GAY HISTORY IS VIRTUALLY ABSENT FROM LITERATURE AND BECAUSE HOMOPHOBIA IS SANCTIONED BY THE SUPREME COURT AND FOR LOTS AND LOTS OF OTHER REASONS,

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Anti-Gay Hancock Amendment to Elementary and Secondary School Act (HR 6) Diluted

Washington, D.C. - (March 24, 1994) - Today, in the U.S. House of Representatives, an amendment to the Elementary and Secondary School Act (HR 6), sponsored by Mel Hancock (R- Missouri), that would have prohibited "programs or activities that have either the purpose or effect of encouraging or supporting homosexuality as a positive lifestyle alternative," was diluted by a second degree amendment offered by Jolene Unsoeld (D-Washington), which passed 224-194. After the Hancock Amendment was amended by Unsoeld, the amendment passed by a 301-120 vote. The amended version still prohibits federal funds to be spent on programs with the "purpose of promoting the homosexual lifestyle."

"The passage of the Hancock Amendment, even as amended by Unsoeld, reflects how easily a majority in the house of Representatives is still swayed by the influences of far-right-wing extremists," said Peri Jude Radecic, NGLTF's Executive Director. "Members of Congress who voted for this amendment should be ashamed of their role in supporting a legacy of intolerance, that for too many young people leads to suicide."

Today's vote on the Hancock Amendment was cast under the backdrop of a lobbying effort by the Traditional Values Coalition, a California-based, anti-gay, far right group, "which has made a cottage industry out of political gay-bashing," said Radecic.

NGLTF PRESS RELEASE

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Ovett, Mississippi

When I first read of Camp Sister Spirit, I was driven to try to help. I picked up the phone and tried to get in touch with them to see what I could do so many miles away. I finally reached Information in Ovett County and (I should have known) their number was not listed. So I proceeded to investigate a little to see if I could hunt it down, I called Information again and asked for the number of their local newspaper. "*Laurel Leader Call*, may I help you?" A small southern voice sounded over the receiver. "Hi, My name is. . ." and I proceeded to explain myself and my mission. "Oh yes, we have been receiving lotsa calls on them, and 20/20 was here and they did a show on them." "Them" she kept calling Brenda and Wanda. So I decided to do a story on "Them." I asked her if I could get a copy of the article that the *Laurel Leader-Call* had done on "Them." She sent me a copy of two issues, *Laurel Leader-Call* Tuesday, January 4, 1994. Headlines read, "Ovett residents 'set record straight.'" And I thought to myself, "How clever of them to come up with such a statement." They also went on to say that they will "set the record straight" about the lesbian-led group Sister Spirit and its attempt to build a "feminist retreat" in the Ovett community. "Let's go through this in a legal manner," James Hendry, leader of the Ovett concerned citizens group told the crowd. "We are going to prevail in the end." There was a picture of a billboard that read "THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA IS GOING STRONG/ ANY OTHER SPIRIT JUST DON'T BELONG" rented by The Revolutionary Force of America. The owner of the billboard could not identify where the group was from, they told him they just wanted to have a voice and stand up for what is right. One resident of Ovett hopes 20/20 reports the truth, and he also told the news crew that he was neighborly to the woman of the lesbian-dominated camp when they first moved to the 120-acre site near Ovett.

When I finally tracked down their phone number, I immediately called them. I was expecting something like "Camp Sister Spirit, may I help you?" considering that it is a business, and they have been in the media eye for a while. But all I got was "Hello." "Is this Camp Sister Spirit?" I said, thinking I had the wrong number. "Yes it is" she said. I stumbled around my words and finally was able to explain myself and what I wanted. Apparently they don't get friendly calls all too often. The woman who answered the call was a resident of the Camp and was doing volunteer help. "Brenda and Wanda are not in at the time but I will tell them you called," and she suggested a better time for me to call. After about three weeks, and a series of attempts to speak to Brenda or Wanda, I was able to get an interview with Wanda. I had this list of about 20 questions to ask her. She's from Pascagoula, Mississippi, about 77 miles from Jackson. She's worked as a nurse since she was twenty, has a bachelor's in nursing, and a master's in adult education.

When I asked her to explain Camp Sister Spirit she defined it as a feminist education and cultural retreat center. And before I could ask the next question she went on to say: "Before we decided to develop this retreat center we checked local laws, and administrations and found no laws or bans or restrictions on any such retreat." She then told me that when she first asked for help from local government and law enforcement, they told her that "Ovett handles their own disputes." Then they asked her if she had a gun. "Do you?" I asked. She said yes, and continued to tell me a list of weaponry that they have there at the camp, and that they also have to have 24 hr armed guards. She just kept telling me things that I could not believe were going on right here in these "UNITED" States of America. It was as if she were describing a foreign country in civil war. Neighbors fighting neighbor: I thought we were beyond that. I felt I didn't need to ask her any more questions, because she anticipated them before I could ask them, as if she had rehearsed this over and over. She could probably do this in her sleep.

I said to Wanda, "I can honestly say that I admire the two of you. Also, the courage and determination you two have displayed throughout this ordeal have made the challenge of starting this magazine more bearable. Was there or is there someone that you look up to or admire that has helped you get through this?" She took but a second before telling me, "I was at my lowest point in life" feeling disabled, when Robyn Tyler, a producer of womyns' festivals, saved her life. Robyn has been there for the Hensons throughout whole ordeal, giving them emotional support. She also told me about Susan Pharr from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Saying that homophobia is a weapon of sexism helped her get national attention -- and the attention of Attorney General Janet Reno -- through NGLTF and other news media. Without these two womyn she would not have survived this.

I wish there was more I could do to help them other than just writing an article about them and their challenge in Ovett. If you think you can help, you can send donations to Camp Sister Spirit, P.O. Box 12, Ovett, MS, 39464.

I asked her if she would like to be quoted on anything, "The only thing we wanted to do was rise in our own state and fight for equality. We need grass roots to take over across the states."

SLM.

Since the founding of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force in 1973 they have won countless victories for lesbians and gay men: In 1974 NGLTF successfully lobbied the American Psychiatric Association to remove homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses. In 1975 NGLTF obtained a U.S. Civil Service Commission ruling that gay people can serve as federal employees. They also secured introduction of the first federal gay rights bill.

NGLTF

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Rebecca OBryan
Music for the Masses
408-977-1234 phone
408-286-1234 fax

Victoria Starr
718-768-1804 phone/fax

CAMP UNDER FIRE ABOUT TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL HELP

Camp Sister Spirit, the women's conference center being constructed by Brenda and Wanda Henson in Ovett, Mississippi, and under attack for the past several months from local right-wing religious groups, are about to receive some much needed financial help for their legal battle from author Victoria Starr.

Starr, whose writings have appeared in Billboard, Village Voice, and OUT magazine, and Rebecca OBryan, owner of Music for the Masses, a mail-order music company, have joined forces to raise money by marketing autographed copies of Starr's new book "All You Get Is Me," a biography of singer k.d. lang. Ten dollars of each sale will be donated to CSS.

Starr, a freelance journalist, radio and TV producer in New York says, "I wanted to find some way to help these women, and if I can give something back from the sale of my book, then I'm delighted."

"I have been sending small amounts to CSS," said OBryan, "but I'm hoping that this will generate the badly needed dollars to continue the legal fight against these so-called "Christians."

Last summer, Camp Sister Spirit bought a 120 acre abandoned pig farm, intending to renovate it into a feminist conference center and retreat. For their efforts, CSS has had to endure everything from crank phone calls to shotgun-toting trespassers to bomb threats.

For information on obtaining an autographed copy of the book, please contact Music for the Masses at (408)236-2224, or write MFTM, P.O. Box 90272 San Jose, CA 95109.

NGLTF STATEMENT ON RETIREMENT OF JUSTICE BLACKMAN

Washington, D.C. -- (April 6, 1994) -- As Justice Harry Blackmun announced his retirement from the U.S. Supreme Court today, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) praised his passionate defence of the right to privacy during his 24 years of service to the nation.

Justice Blackmun's eloquence in defence of the right to privacy extended beyond his landmark opinion in *Roe v. Wade* to his forceful dissent in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, in which the Supreme Court denied that a fundamental right to consensual sexual intimacy between two adults of the same sex exists.

In his dissenting opinion in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, Justice Blackmun cited a previous case and wrote, "This case is about 'the most comprehensive of rights and the right most valued by civilized men,' namely, 'the right to be let alone.'"

"Depriving individuals of the right to choose for themselves how to conduct their intimate relationships poses a far greater threat to the values most deeply rooted in our Nation's history than tolerance of nonconformity could ever do. Because the Court today betrays those values, I dissent," he wrote.

"As Justice Jackson wrote so eloquently," Blackmun added, "Freedom to differ is not limited to things that do not matter much. That would be a mere shadow of freedom. The test of its substance is the right to differ as to things that touch the heart of the existing order."

"Administration officials have discussed the need to ensure that the next Supreme Court appointee is able to build consensus on the Court" noted NGLTF Executive Director Peri Jude Radecic. "It is imperative that President Clinton appoint a consensus-builder who is also able to carry on justice Blackmun's legacy of defending the right to privacy."

Press Release
NGLTF

NGLTF REJECTS COORS "PROGRESSIVE RECORD" Colorado Beer Maker Continues to Fund Extremist Right Wing Political Gay-Bashing

Washington, D.C. -- (April 6, 1994) -- Officials at the NGLTF today said that "progressive" employment policies of the Coors Brewing Company are a smoke screen that diverts attention from the company's long history of funding extreme right wing activity targeted against people of color, women, labor, and gay Americans.

"Make no mistake," said David M. Smith, NGLTF Director of Public Information, "Members of the Coors family contribute millions of dollars and political direction to far right wing organizations that form the foundation of current wave of political gay-bashing that is sweeping the nation."

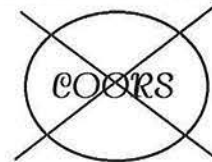
Coors Brewing Company issued a press release on March 17, 1994, citing NGLTF's evaluation of progressive employment practices of major corporations with regard to sexual orientation. The press release boasted of meeting criteria established by NGLTF in 4 out of 5 areas. "While we are supportive of the gay and lesbian employee group working for change from within the company," said Smith. "It is important to note that the Coors' press release failed to mention the anti-gay, anti-civil rights agenda of the Coors family that profits from each sale of Coors product." Coors products include Coors Beer, Killian's Red, Coors Cutter (non-alcoholic) and Zima, a new clear malt beverage. "In effect, a percentage of every dollar spent on a Coors product, goes directly to radical organizations that are attacking this country's gay population," said Smith.

According the San Francisco *Bay Times*, a leading gay publication, the Coors family is one of the half-dozen leading donors and agenda-setters for the political Far Right in the United States. In 1973, Joseph Coors, son of Coors founder Adolph Coors, and Paul Weyrich co-founded the Heritage

Foundation, one of the most influential ultra-right-wing think tanks in the world. Weyrich's latest enterprise is a cable television network espousing ultra-right-wing propaganda, called National Empowerment Television. Jeffrey Coors, Joseph's son, currently is Chairman of the Free Congress Foundation, a vociferous anti-gay lobbying group.

Coors Brewing Company executives say the company is separate and distinct from the Coors Foundation, the legal entity that actually makes the donations to the anti-gay political groups. However, both the company and the foundation have Coors family members on the respective boards of directors, and the foundation is funded by Coors family members who receive their income from the company.

"NGLTF believes it is outright deceit for Coors to claim a 'progressive record' on its employment practices when it continues to be a major source of funding and guidance for groups that actively oppose these same progressive policies on a national level," said Smith



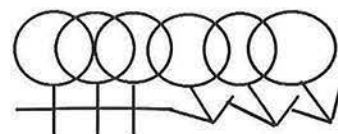
Press Release
NGLTF

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Cartoon artist needed for local lesbian magazine, someone who can write and draw cartoons or put picture to script. Must be "OUT". Please call 545-1655, ask for Stacy.

Currently this is all we have for classifieds this week, but we do plan on expanding this section. If you have anything that you would like to sell, or anyone you would like to hire, or even just sending someone a letter to say hi! Please call 545-1655.



POETRY, FICTION, NON-FICTION

Readers, this is your time to be heard, so don't be shy. Send in your poetry. And if you want to hear more from a specific writer, don't hesitate to write in a request.

STILLWATERS, by Rosemary Keshock Crew

She sat there, staring up at him he was some kind of beardless dark-haired Santa Clause. Her own dark eyes glimmered with the admiration and love only a three year old can give to a parent. As she sat there, hugging his big old forearm, she remembered the picnic he took her blackberry picking, and the blustery day he called her Pooh-Bear and took her kite flying. She squeezed all the harder when she remembered the wonderful Christmas they'd all just experienced... and how she couldn't wait for summer to ride her new tricycle outside. In her own, nieve way she yearned to be a part of him forever, for him to never leave her side. Her love for him was so deep. . . and then he stuck his finger inside her and made her cry. She let go of his big old forearm and clung to his chest when he turned her around and entered her inside.

She got her dream. He'd never leave. He'd always be inside.

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1-800-342-2437 4Min. recorded message on AIDS

1-800-342-7514 for information and referral for testing and
counseling or to request written information.

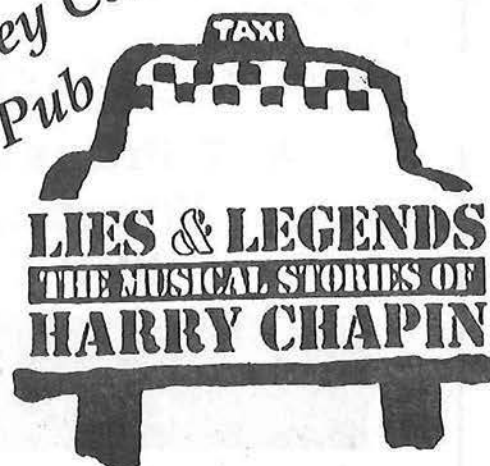
1-800-332-AIDS Ohio AIDS Hotline

Rule # 781 On how not to become co-dependant:
Do not put all your personal strength into making
your lover happy, because you lose yourself and
become them. Then they leave you because they
wanted to be with "you" not someone who was
just like them.

SLM

Join us at

YSU's
Kilcawley Center
Pub



Kilcawley Center Pub
Youngstown State University
for reservations call 746-0404
(Parking available in M-8 lot
corner Bryson & Spring)

regular admission \$10.00
seniors & students \$ 8.00

Fridays & Saturdays,

May , 13, 14, 20 & 21

June 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 & 18 @ 8:00 p.m.

Sunday,

May 22 @ 2:30 p.m.

20th Anniversary

NATIONAL
NGLTF
GAY & LESBIAN
TASK FORCE

Policy Institute

ACTIVIST ALERT

May 1994

OLYMPICS OUT OF COBB

The battle over the 1996 Olympics in Cobb County, Georgia is heating up. A coalition of organizations is pressing the Olympic Committee to remove volleyball from Cobb County because the county commission passed a resolution last summer condemning the gay "lifestyle." Cobb Commission Chairman Bill Byrne has stated that the original anti-gay resolution will not be rescinded, although the commission issued another resolution last month stating vaguely that everyone is "welcome" in Cobb County during the Olympics. In an interview with the Atlanta Constitution, Byrne added that gays are welcome in Cobb County as are "skinheads," "pro-Nazis" and people "filled with hate" who "have a right to be here, as anyone else does, and to continue to be welcome."

The Olympics Out of Cobb County Coalition is asking the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games to move volleyball to a venue outside of Cobb County. The Coalition has threatened a massive protest in 1996 if the Olympics are held in Cobb County, which has distinguished itself as the only jurisdiction in the nation with a resolution broadly condemning the gay "lifestyle."

Demand that the Olympics be moved out of Cobb. Contact Bill Payne, President, Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, 250 Williams St., NW, Suite 6000, Atlanta, GA 30301, (404) 224-1996; Juan Antonio Samarach, President, International Olympic Committee, Chateau de Vidy, CH-1007, Lausanne, Switzerland. For more information, contact Olympics Out of Cobb County, P.O. Box 77341, Atlanta, GA 30357-1341; (404) 798-7822.

NGLTF IS MOVING.
OUR NEW ADDRESS, AS OF JUNE 13, 1994:
2320 17th St., NW
Washington, DC 20009
Phone and fax remain the same.

HELP PREVENT GAY TEEN SUICIDE

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death among gay, lesbian and bisexual youth, and several studies show that gay youth are more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual youth. Rep. Marty Meehan (D-MA) has introduced legislation to create a national commission on gay and lesbian youth suicide prevention. The commission would work to include gay youth within existing suicide prevention programs, make recommendations to curb suicide among gay youth, and expand current research. The panel is modeled on a statewide commission created in Massachusetts in 1992 to counsel the State Board of Education on discouraging harassment and discrimination against gay and lesbian students.

Encourage your Representative in the House to co-sponsor Meehan's bill, H.R. 4148. Write to: The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. If you don't know the name of your Representative, call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

EXPAND THE CRS MANDATE

At the request of NGLTF, Attorney General Janet Reno took the bold step of directing the Community Relations Service (CRS) to mediate the anti-lesbian dispute involving Camp Sister Spirit in Overt, Mississippi. Her directive allows CRS to go beyond its mandate, but does not change the mandate, which is to mediate community tensions based on race, color and national origin.

Urge Congress to expand the CRS mandate to include sexual orientation. Write to Rep. Don Edwards, Chair, Judiciary Subcomm. on Civil and Constitutional Rights, OHOB 806, Washington, DC 20515; Sen. Joseph Biden, Chair, Judiciary Committee, SD-224, Washington, DC 20510.

STONEWALL 25

With the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, the NGLTF Fight the Right Project will co-host a "fight the Right" symposium in New York during Stonewall 25. The event, "The International Rise of the Right Wing," will feature a panel of international speakers who will address the rise of Right Wing extremism in Europe, Central and South America, and Islamic countries, as well as the exportation of U.S. Right Wing extremism to other countries.

Please attend this important event, to be held 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 23, 1994, at Washington Irving High School, 40 Irving Place (one block east of Union Square) in New York City. Time to be announced. For further information, call Sue Hyde, NGLTF Fight the Right Organizer, (617) 492-6393; e-mail to sjhnglft@aol.com.

GAY & LESBIAN PROGRAMMING ON NPR

There is an active on-line discussion in process regarding gay and lesbian programming issues at National Public Radio (NPR). NPR hosts a forum on America Online (AOL), and is encouraging listeners to offer suggestions for gay and lesbian programming.

If you listen to NPR and have some ideas, you can reach NPR on AOL. Go to keyword NPR, to the NPR Outreach Folder, find Talk About Radio, then enter the Gay/Les/Bi Program on NPR. By letter or phone, contact Sean Collins, NPR News, 635 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001-3753; (202) 414-2342.

GAY COUPLE IN IKEA AD

The Ikea furniture company is featuring a gay male couple in an advertisement as part of its new "Lifestyles" campaign currently airing on television. In discussing their Ikea purchase, the two men also discuss how they met, how long they've been together, and their commitment to one another. Expect Far Right groups to register their complaints with Ikea for "promoting" homosexuality through advertising.

Send comments to Peter Connolly, Marketing Director, Ikea, Plymouth Commons, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462; (215) 834-0180 phone; (215) 834-0872 fax.

EXPOSING DISCRIMINATION

NGLTF, working in conjunction with the Human Rights Campaign Fund and other groups, is looking for individuals who have experienced discrimination in employment based on their sexual orientation. The cases should clearly illustrate the negative impact of anti-gay discrimination in the workplace and provide compelling arguments for Federal protection from discrimination. We are especially looking for cases involving women and people of color, cases not in a major metropolitan city, and cases that involve working class or labor oriented jobs. Individuals would need to be comfortable with and perform well under substantial national media exposure.

If you have experienced such discrimination, please contact David Smith, NGLTF Director of Public Information, (202) 332-6483, ext. 3309; e-mail to dmsnglft@aol.com.

If you have an item you think should be included in **ACTIVIST ALERT**, please mail or fax it to Robin Kane, Activist Alert editor, NGLTF Policy Institute, 1734 14th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009-4309; fax (202) 332-0207; e-mail raknglft@aol.com. All entries should be national in scope or should allow for activists from around the country to respond.

AIDSWATCH '94

The national AIDS lobby days on Capitol Hill will be held this year on May 22, 23, and 24. AIDSWATCH '94 is coordinated by the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) and co-sponsored by several other AIDS organizations around the country. AIDSWATCH lobby days allow constituents to focus legislators' attention on AIDS issues in general. This year, AIDSWATCH will emphasize healthcare reform and appropriations for prevention, care and research.

Reserve May 22-24 for AIDSWATCH '94. Constituents can lobby legislators in person on Capitol Hill or by letter and phone calls on those days. Activists are then encouraged to follow-up with legislators at their district offices when Congress is in recess May 28 through June 6. For further information, contact Lisa Ragain at NAPWA, (202) 898-0414.

